Mother Nature Sets Her Eyes on Maryland

The Bottom Line: Frostburg State University

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Byline: Keith Davidson

Body

Over the past couple of weeks, Mother Nature has shown Maryland her nasty side. The state has experienced several natural phenomena including an earthquake, hurricane, and flooding. As individual entities, these disasters are not uncommon, but for Maryland, experiencing two of them within a year is rare let alone all three within the timeframe of a month.

Mother Nature first showed her wrath on Tuesday, August 23 at 1:51 PM with a 5.9 magnitude earthquake. The quake, centered in Mineral, Virginia, shook most of the East Coast including Frostburg. It was the strongest quake to rock the area since 1897.

While the quake may have unnerved thousands of people, it did very little in terms of damage with parts of Maryland affected more than others. Frostburg barely gave the once-a-century event a notice with the majority of people either not noticing the shaking or just ignoring it. However, local residents did notice something was up when they were unable to send or receive calls on their cell phones.

Immediately after the quake hit the East Coast, cell phone towers throughout the region became jammed with thousands of calls causing the network to shut down. Texting and landline phone systems became the only method for contacting individuals within the quake region.

Hurricane Irene was the next spectacle to grace the state arriving less than a week after the earthquake on August 27. The storm was predicted to hit the East Coast of the United States with much more force than it actually did. These early predictions resulted in the complete evacuation of Ocean City, Maryland, which in the end received very little damage from the storm.

Once again, the Frostburg area missed the blunt of Mother Nature's wrath with the local region receiving only some light winds and a few small showers. However, Frostburg State University did take notice of the storm since students located in the storm's path were preparing to make the move to campus for the fall semester. The university sent out a notice to students telling them to be cautious and use their best judgment when it came to driving in severe weather conditions. Extensions were made to move in and registration times in response to the storm.

Mother Nature's next blow came last week with the arrival of the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. Most of the state received at least some rain from the storm. According to the National Weather Service, more than 9.4 inches of rain poured over southern portions of the state. This immense amount of rain resulted in several floods statewide and the loss of life for some individuals. Some areas heavily damaged by flooding included Havre de Grace, cities along the Susquehanna River, and U.S. 301 near La Plata.

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Frostburg was not lucky enough this time to miss the storm completely. Several inches of rain fell last week from Tuesday through Thursday, but no major problems occurred from the storms. However, FSU students did have to endure sitting in class cold and soaking wet for the majority of the week, while commuter students faced foggy unpleasant conditions on Interstate 68.

Many across Maryland are wondering just what else Mother Nature can throw at them this year, but only time will reveal what other tricks she has in store. FSU students are hoping to have a break from rain and cool weather so they can enjoy the last few weeks of summer before the famous cold snowy Frostburg winter begins.

For more information on any of the natural occurrences mentioned, visit the National Weather Service's website at http://www.weather.gov. To learn about the exact weather conditions in Frostburg, students can visit http://www.frostburg.edu/about/weather/to get real time data straight from the weather station in Compton Science Center.

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